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General Notes.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.

Africa.—**IBEA, OR BRITISH EAST AFRICA.**—Although the continent of Africa is now gay with the colors which distinguish the spheres of influence of the various European countries, and though it has now been crossed and re-crossed in almost every conceivable direction, there are still considerable areas about which very little is known. This is especially true of the regions adjoining and intervening between the great lakes of the Equator; those vast fresh-water areas dimly known to the ancients, but entirely lost to the moderns until the present generation. The politico-religious troubles in Uganda, which some endeavored to convert into reasons for the abandonment of that country by the British, have directed considerable attention toward that region, and Captain Lugard, whose name has been prominent in the recent troubles, has not been slow to furnish information. The British sphere of influence in this quarter is separated on the north from the Italian by the river Juba, while to the southwest a line drawn from the center of the east shore of Victoria Nyanza, to a point on the ocean near the island of Penba marks the edge of the German sphere. This line is however, bent northward around Kilimanjaro, so that the whole of that snow-clad elevation is within the German sphere. At the Victoria Nyanza the Anglo-German boundary is deflected westward. Upon the west, the British protectorate is bounded by the Congo State. The territory of Uganda stretches along the north and northwest shores of the great lake, extending inland as far as Unyoro, which skirts to the southeast shores of the Albert Nyanza; eastward of Uganda toward the Albert-Edward Nyanza, lies the district of Ankoli. The whole of the British sphere in northeast Africa has received the name of "Ibea," formed from the initials of Imp. British East Africa Co., and, as this name is both short and pretty, it may be hoped that it will persist when the company itself is a thing of the past.

Captain Lugard's route to Uganda was from Mombasa to the little river Sabaki, to the south of Mount Kenia, which is entirely within the British sphere. According to him, the source from which the great Victoria Nyanza derives its supply of water is among the chief

geographical puzzles of Africa. All the rivers flowing into the lake are very small, and the broad Somerset Nile which flows out of its northern coast certainly carries away more than is received by their combined streams.

The greater part of the waters which fall upon the Uganda region seem to make their way either to Lake Rudolf or Lake Baringo, and we must therefore assume that Victoria Nyanza is fed by springs. The western shore of Lake Albert is faced by a lofty plateau, the waters of which flow, not to the Nile basin, but to the Ituri, a tributary of the Congo. The Senliki River, which, under various names, unites the Albert-Edward or Mwtanzige Lake with the Albert Nyanza, is relatively small where it issues from the former, and its considerable volume at its entrance into the latter is due to the affluents which flow from the western extremity of the snow-capped range of Ruwenzori. Though the eastern portion of this range drains directly into the Mwtanzige, the waters flowing from the western part are sufficient to convert the lower portion of the Senliki into a deep and rapid river. Adjoining the Victoria Nyanza on the northeast is the fertile district of Kavironda, where much grain is grown and where the natives, a good-natured and merry set, wear no clothing of any kind unless the tusks of wart-hog, horns and wings with which the warriors decorate their heads can be considered as clothing. Passing west from Kavirondo to Usoga, a district tributary to the Waganda, the character of the agriculture suddenly changes, the grain giving place to bananas, potatoes and cassava, though no marked difference of soil or aspect can be detected in the surface of the country. Moreover, the transit is from nudity to clothing, for every native of Usoga, like the Waganda, is dressed in the mbugu, an ample garment manufactured from fig-bark. The dress of both sexes is the same, but while the mbugu of Usoga is black, that of Uganda is brick-red. East of Kavirondo is an equatorial plateau seven to eight thousand feet above the sea, apparently well-suited for the residence of Europeans, and gradually sloping to the Kavirondo lowlands. In various parts of this plateau are still to be found remnants of the once powerful nation of the Gallas whose forces have been exhausted in the struggle with the Masai to the south and the Somals to the north. A curious feature of the districts of Uganda and Unyoro, according to Captain Lugard, is the scarcity of running water, and the occurrence of swamps in every depression. The average elevation of Uganda is 3,700 feet, while Unyoro, though not greatly dissimilar in general aspect is higher, and has loftier hills. The Waganda possess great natural aptitude, are clever carpenters

and smiths, and can be readily taught European methods of working. They are fond of music, have many rude musical instruments, and possess a currency of cowries. Mentally, they are certainly superior to the surrounding races. Uganda is divided into ten provinces, each of which has its chief, while over all is set a vizir. The system of land-tenure is very complex, and chieftainships are complicated. The northern part of Ankoli is thickly peopled, but the land has suffered terribly from the cattle-plague, which has reduced all the pastoral tribes of this region to a state bordering on starvation. Not only have millions of domestic cattle fallen before this dread disease, but the buffalo has been practically exterminated, while the eland and the smaller kinds of antelopes have suffered severely.

The Albert-Edward or Mwutanzige is really a double lake, for the long northeastern arm known as Ruvango is only connected with the larger body by a river not more than 500 yards across. This lake is abundantly supplied; the Mpanga alone brings down more water from Ruwenzori than is taken out by the Senliki.

During his circuit from the Victoria by the Albert-Edward to the Albert Nyanza and Wadelai, Captain Lugard picked up the Sudanese refugees left by Emin Pasha, and upon his return was accompanied by some 9000 people. He concluded his address before the Royal Geographical Society with a graphic picture of the present disordered state of the countries west and north of the Uganda, smitten by the cattle-plague, oppressed by a usurper named Kabarega, and only prevented from freely accepting protection, from the fear that all protectors, like Stanley, will depart and thus leave them a helpless prey to the vengeance of their oppressors.

Uganda is a region of rounded grass-clad knolls, while Unyoro is more rugged, often with fantastic piles of granite, and abounds in caves. The rivers of Uganda are large papyrus swamps with no current, and little open water. The hills are of red marl or shaly gravel. In past times Uganda had broad roads, often with culverts across water, and even now it would be easy to make a good road to the Albert Nyanza. More grain is grown in Unyoro than in Unganda. A survey for a projected railway from the coast to Victoria Nyanza has already been made for 350 miles.

There seem to be several small lakes in Buddu, a province of Uganda west of the Victoria Nyanza; in Koki, a tributary state east of Buddu, and in Ankoli, the eastern part of which has loftier hills and poorer soil than Buddu. One of these lakes, between Ankoli and Koki, is named Kashera. Iron seems to be abundant in these

districts. The natives of Ankoli are Wahuma, a fine race apparently with affinities to the Galla and Somali, but mingled with Bantu.

The Tana, a large river south of the Juba, has been navigated by Captain E. G. Dundas in the stern-wheel steamer *Kenia*, to within a short distance of the mountain of that name, which was afterward ascended to a height of 8,700 feet. The Tana has two mouths, the northern one, the Ozi, is not now important, but the entire district between it and the Tana mouth is alluvial. The lower portion of the river is almost meridional, but close to the equator a broad westerly curve conducts to the congeries of affluents which descend from the forest covered slopes west of Mt. Kenia. The steamer could proceed as far as Hameyé, near the equator, at the start of the great bend. The peoples met with in the ascent were the Kalindi at the mouth, the Ngao, Omoina, Ndera, Guano, Ndura, Sabaki, Malululu, Malakote, Wasania, Korokoro, Wandorotu, Murdoi, Wathaka, Mumomi, Mbe, Kikoya and Muea near Mt. Kenia.

The smaller Sabaki river to the south of the Tana, also has its headwaters in the forest belt S. W. of Kenia. The existence of such a river as the Tana, navigable through more than three degrees of latitude, was until recently practically unknown. A considerable fall about 18° south of the equator, and sixty feet high, terminates the navigable part of the stream.

It may be remembered that Mt. Kenia has been ascended by Count Teleki to a height of 15,350 feet, yet he estimated that there was still above him 3,500 feet to the highest summit. The forest reaches to 3,500 feet, bamboos to 10,500, after which the vegetation as far as the snow-line at 15,000 feet consists of mosses and the curious tree *Senecio johnstonii*. The slope toward the west is very gentle, but southward the mountain presents a serrated ridge four miles in length.

An expedition has started for the Juba River commanded by Lieutenant C. R. Villiers, and accompanied by J. W. Gregory of the British Museum.

Asia.—A VISIT TO PEIK-TU-SHAN.—Mr. Carles has recently paid a visit to the singular white-topped and flat-topped mountain in Mantchuria, from which issue the sources of the three great rivers Tumen, Yalu and Sungari. This mountain, which has upon its summit a lake some twelve miles in circuit, at an elevation of 7,500 feet, had been previously been visited by Mr. Younghusband and his party, but Mr. Carles was moved to undertake the journey from Seoul, the capital of Korea, by reading an account of it in a Chinese work.

This account, exaggerated though it was, giving to the mountain a height of five miles, and to the lake a proportionately expanded circumference, showed that there really existed a remarkable elevation. Chan-y-Peik, the "Ever White Mountain," is well-wooded to the top, and thus presents a contrast to the isolated Peik-tu-Shan or Old White Mountain the summit of which is bare, and white with pumice. It is the latter which encloses the lake.

The account of the journey, in the March issue of the Proceedings Royal Geological Society is full of interesting matter concerning the ways of the large-hatted Koreans, their threshing-floors of beaten clay, the pickled cabbages and turnips so dear to their palates, their dress and domestic animals, among which the black and hairy pig is conspicuous. The untidiness of a Korean village offers a marked contrast to the neatness of a Japanese one, but Mr. Carles gives the Korean rustics credit for a more thorough appreciation of natural beauty than is possessed by any other people. A Korean who has climbed a summit stops, not to complain of the toil, but to admire the landscape. Ham-Heung, the chief town of N. E. Korea, is a walled town with twenty-five to thirty thousand inhabitants.

THE KACHINS AND THE IRAWADI.—The recent expedition of the Indian Government among the hills of the rebellious Kachins, Chingpaws, or Singphos, who occupy much of northern Burma, toward the Chinese frontier, though they have added to our geographical knowledge of the upper waters of the Irawadi, have not solved the mystery of the Salwin. The upper Irawadi divides into two principal streams, the Mali Kha to the west, and the more easterly Nmai Kha. The course of the former has been mapped as a result of the Kachin expeditions, but little is really known of the latter, save that at its junction with the Mali Kha it is somewhat the larger.

The Kachins seem to be descended from the Karengs, and have for ages been subject to hereditary chiefs or Sawbwars; but of late years many villages have rebelled against these, driven them out or killed them, and these villages are now only governed by 'headmen' with little authority. This, together with the fact that the peaceful trading villages of the Shans and Chinese are each under the protection of a Kachin village, made it difficult to reduce the tribes to subjection. Among the Kachin tribes are the Kanong, Passu, Nankmong, Kamans and Khangs, these are said to be the wildest, and to be unclothed. The district is not one of lofty mountains, but of rugged hills two to three thousand feet in height, intersected by well-watered valleys. A

good deal of opium is grown, but not enough to fully supply this opium-consuming race. No reliable information can be obtained respecting the head-waters of the Nmai Kha. It is thought that the Phung Mai, east of Kanti and the Nmai Kha, may be the latter, while the Lu is the Salwin. All the water that falls upon the land up to within a few miles of the Lu drains to the Irawadi, which thus rapidly develops into a noble river, though it is doubtful whether any of its sources are farther north than $28^{\circ} 30'$.

EAST ASIA MINOR.—In these days of exploration of the unknown, some of the districts that have been longest known, and which fill large pages of the world's history, seem to be least visited. It is this which lends additional interest to D. G. Hogarth's account of his travels in Asia Minor—that land of many peoples and of many ruins which has for centuries been the stronghold of the Turkish power. Mr. Hogarth not only examined many ruined cities, but penetrated through several little known passes of the Taurus and Anti-Taurus. In the district between Lakes Egerdir and Beysheher there are no passes, but the Eurymedon cuts its way through a great gorge, and the population interests from its primitive and apparently indigenous character. The Pisidian city of Adada, now Kara Baylo, perched high on its hill-top, is a most perfect specimen of an Anatolian city of Roman times. Not very distant are the ruins of Lystra and Derbe.

In a small island upon Lake Egerdir are the remnants of a small colony of Greeks, who in the twelfth century deliberately preferred Mohammedan to Byzantine rulers. The monastery of Koja Kalessi is a remarkable ruin, containing a church of the fourth or fifth century, restored in the reign of Justinian, and evidencing the power still possessed by heathen traditions in the entire absence of Christian symbolism from its sculpture. The city of Coropissus is a veritable Pompeii, the church probably of the seventh or eighth century, most of the ruins a little later. The east Taurus is richly wooded, and is traversed by the tremendous canyons of Samanti, Saros and Jihan, not passable even on foot. Several important passes occur farther east than the famous Cilician Gates. This district was the last refuge of the independent Armenians of Cilicia, and their robber towns, Hadjin and Zeitun, still exist. The half-troglodyte Kurds, nominally Mussulmans, but with pre-Mussulman customs, have penetrated to these parts. The Anti-Taurus, deserted since the eleventh century, is now inhabited only by the nomad Avshar and some Kurds, who found their way there about fifty years ago. The great Roman road to the Euphrates can

still be easily traced in the valley of the Saros, and has many mile-stones. The fortified tower of Maidan dates from the first or second century, when the Cilicians were lords of the Mediterranean. Among so-called Hittite monuments, one of the most important is the obelisk at Albistan. This the inhabitants refused to sell to some Germans, the Government heard of it, and took possession without payment. It has sixty-seven lines of inscription on all four sides.

NORTHEAST SIBERIA.—The region of the Verkhoyansk and Stanovoi Mounts, in N. E. Asia, with the upper basins of the Kolyma, Indigirka and Lena, have been recently explored by M. Cherski. Proceeding up the Chandyga River, Cherski reached the heart of the Verkhoyansk, whose summits are below the snow-line. Then by way of the river Dyba, a tributary of the Tyra, he reached the valley of the Omekon, which stream the natives regard as the true head-waters of the Indigirka. The Uchagei-urach does not, as shown on the maps, empty into the Omekon. The Verkhoyansk was then crossed at its junction with the Stanovoi range, where the latter runs eastward. The region between the Indigirka and the Kolyma, covered by the bend of Stanovoi, is split into several subdivides, of which the expedition crossed three, and found the third to be the water-parting between the Indigirka and Kolyma basins, the Moma flowing from one side, the Syrjanka, an affluent of the Kolyma, from the other. The valleys of this district are broad with gentle slopes, and without terraces, which are destroyed by the shifting courses of the rivers, the tendency of the latter being rather to fill up the valleys with rubbish than to deepen them. On the southern slopes magnificent poplars and willows flourish, and the meadows have a rich flora. Notwithstanding the high latitude, the temperature in June and July rose to 113 in the sun, though for fourteen days in August it sank below 32. The great longitudinal valleys seem to have possessed immense glaciers in the pliocene period; while the mountains are formed of Silurian and Jurassic folds.

ASIATIC NOTES.—The recent expedition of Lieutenant H. S. Walker, from Napeh in Upper Burma to Arakan, possesses considerable interest, were it only for the visit paid to Myohaung, the ancient capital of Arakan, now peopled only by some 2500 souls. The ancient magnificence of the place is attested by the great ruined walls, forming three squares one within the other, and by two gigantic pagodas, one

with eighty, and the other with ninety thousand images. This city was known to Ptolemy, who speaks of it as Triglyphon.

The outward route was through the An Pass, while the return route was eighty miles to the north. The former was found far the better for a railway, though beyond Dalet it was cut up by creeks, many of which, however, could be missed by hugging Myaintaung Hill. Lieutenant Walker speaks of the Arakanese as indolent and cowardly beyond measure.

W. M. Conway, with a party, started in February of the past year to explore the glacier regions of Baltistan and Karakoram, southeast of Pamir. News of his expedition has several times been received, but no full account has yet been given. He has been the first European to cross the Nashik pass; has explored the Hispar Glacier, a vast level sea of snow of 300 square miles, surrounded by a ring of giant peaks—the largest glacier outside of the polar circle; has ascended many lofty peaks, among which is one which he has named Pioneer Peak (over 23,000 feet) because it was found to precede the Golden Throne, some 2000 feet higher still.

A new map of Persia, compiled from a great number of general and divisional maps, may be found in the issue of the Proceedings Royal Geographical Society for February, 1892. It is on a scale of 600 miles to the inch, and includes Afghanistan and Beluchistan. The boundaries of the famous Persian desert, the Dasht-i-Kavir, with its two large salt-swamps, and the Kuh-i-Gugird, are clearly shown. The desert is shaped like a dumb-bell, and the largest salt-swamp is in the centre of the western portion.

Captain Bower and Dr. Thorold left Leh in June last year, crossed the widest part of Tibet, and passed a chain of salt-lakes, one of which, Bor-Ba-Tu, is probably the highest lake in the world, since it is situated 17,930 feet above sea-level. Their course lay from Ladak to Chiamdo, about 150 miles to the north of the route of Pundit Nain Singh. Though ordered back by the Tibetan authorities, they made their way through Tibet to west China.

Burma and Assam seem temptingly close upon the map, and are only separated by about a hundred miles of hill country, yet a satisfactory road from one to the other has not yet been found. The highest hills or mountains of the district range from but four to eight

thousand feet, but as they are clothed with dense forest and impenetrable jungle, with few inhabited or cultivated spots, the passage is very difficult. The political officer of Assam, Mr. Needham, after having had experience of one route, tried that by which in past times the Burmese armies used to find their way to conquer Assam. This leads across the Patkoi, among hills below 3000 feet in height, to Nongyong Lake, and then via the Loglai to the Singpho village of Ham Yung, thence to Ningbu, three short marches from Maingkhwan.

Australasia.—**AUSTRALIAN EXPLORATION.**—The news of Australian exploration is always tame and little varied, like the aspect of that "scrubby" interior. Dr. Lindsay and party crossed the space between the courses of Forrest and of Giles. They found the Queen Victoria spring on the latter course nearly dry, and the country seemed to have had no rain for two years. Various bushes were found, also a gum-tree forest which extended into S. Australia. From the roots of certain mallee trees, which the natives know by experience, they procure a quantity of pure water.

In South Australia the country between lakes Eyre and Amadeus has been explored, and seems to be rather more varied than most of the interior, as several ranges of hills, the Musgrave, Everard, Mann, etc., have been found, rising four to five thousand feet above the sea. The Musgrave hills are of red granite, which appears to predominate in the other ranges. *Spinifex*, a few pines, stunted gums and mulga, are the prevalent trees, but between the Musgrave and Mann ranges is a growth of large *casuarinas*.

In West Australia the country between Northam and Eucla has been traversed, and good ground has been found in a slightly undulating country. After the limestone was reached (31°, 10' S., 124°, 30' E.) the open forest and plains changed to grass and salt-bush plains, well adapted for pastoral purposes. Many holes were met with, probably leading to underground streams. The soil is mostly rich red loam, there are springs in many places, and water is near to the surface. White gum and gimlet-wood were the most conspicuous trees. The land seems rich in minerals. The natives seen were of much finer physique than those which frequent the towns.

NEW GUINEA.—Sir W. Macgregor continues his work of visiting the various tribes of British New Guinea with the aim of bringing them to acquiesce in the government and laws of Great Britain. Great progress has already been made in this matter, so that already some

villages which were built upon piles for security are now removed to dry land. The want of recognized hereditary chiefs among the natives present causes some difficulty, but the coast tribes have to a great extent accepted the change, and the inland tribes, who were for the most part driven inland by the coast residents, are commencing to come in. The area of the British portion is 86,000 square miles, and the population is probably 350,000. On their part the Germans are doing similar work. Between Pouro and Milne bays there is a ridge of lava and coral limestone, rising to 850 feet. The close relationship often supposed to exist between the flora of New Guinea and that of Australia seems scarcely borne out by the facts. Though *Proteaceæ* and *Myrtaceæ* abound in the savannahs of Fly River, yet the palms are numerous in species, and at least fifty indigenous plants are known.

Sir W. Macgregor has been specially engaged among the D'Entrecasteaux and Trobriand Islands. The latter are a little known group of small islets, with one language, and a population of some 15,000.

The most interesting discovery has been that of a number of atolls which have, since their formation, been elevated by a horizontal uplift. Kitava or Nowan has a surface of 5.6 square miles, and is now girt by a fringing reef; almost its whole circuit is surrounded by a low sloping margin about a quarter of a mile wide, covered with trees. This abuts against a steep coral wall three to four hundred feet in height, also covered with forest. Within this wall the land dips gently to a plateau fifty to a hundred feet below the edge of the wall, plainly the ancient lagoon. The soil in this interior plain is of a rich chocolate tint, and very fertile. All the natives reside in this protected area, which is drained by filtration through the porous coral rock. Kwaiwata is similar, but much smaller. Gawa is a still more perfect specimen, having a coral wall four hundred feet high, and so steep that it must be climbed by ladders, while the interior is a 100 feet lower. On approaching these islands from the sea they seem to be uninhabited, since the natives live in the saucer-like hollow. In Iwa the raised border has been worn away. A great portion of the south of Fergusson Island, one of the D'Entrecasteaux group, is occupied by the mountain mass of Edagwaba, 4-5000 feet high, composed of mica schist, and in the N. W. corner Kubioia rises to 3-4000 feet. The islets of Namu and Bagiagia are of coral, low and uninhabited. On each of the small Trobriand Islands there is a single village.

Polar Regions.—THE DANISH EXPEDITION.—Lieutenant Ryder of the Danish navy, contrived in spite of the floating ice which extended from three hundred to three hundred and fifty miles from Greenland, to enter Scoresby Sound last year, and to discover that it was really an extensive fjord with several branches. Hurry's Inlet, a branch toward the north, proved to be a fjord 28 miles long, with gneissic cliffs 3000 feet in height on the east, and westward the crags of Jameson's Land, 2500 feet high, seemingly composed largely of glacial moraine. Many Jurassic and Tertiary fossils were found on Jameson's Land, while at Cape Brewster, where the cliffs rose only from 300 to 500 feet, fossils of older date were found.

The southern shore of Scoresby Sound presents a lofty and unbroken granite wall sixty miles in length, the ground rising in the interior to 3000 feet. The widest inlet is named Hall's Inlet, and trends north-west. On its shores are *roches moutonnées* and striae in abundance, but no ice. The inland ice is not met with until a distance of 176 miles from the sea is reached, it is found at the heads of the smaller bays and fjords, and all the fjords seem to reach it. The gneiss rises to 500 feet in the southwest, to 3000 in Milne's Land (west of Hall's Inlet) and to 6000 feet in the northern region explored—on the west it is covered with basalt. Animal life proved to be rich, especially on Jameson's Land, where reindeer occurred in wonderful numbers, while the musk-ox was found on Hurry's Inlet. No less than 150 species of flowering plants were gathered. No inhabitants were met with, but winter houses and graves were seen.

POLAR NOTES.—Several whalers have left Dundee for the Antarctic, in the hope of combining discovery with a good catch.

Dr. Drygalski, in connection with the Geographical Society of Berlin, has erected an observatory between the Great and Little Karajak glaciers, on Umanak Fjord, West Greenland.

Coal has been discovered in Spitzbergen by L. Cremer.